

REMARKS

The Examiner reviewed an application mentioned in the Information Disclosure Statement, but also noted that a list of references was not provided. The application that was considered was the only reference.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 8-10, 13-15 and 21-23 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Arakawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,961,347). Claims 5-7, 11-12, 16-20 and 24-25 were objected to as allowable if amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1-4, 8-10, 13-15 and 21-23, including independent claims 1, 8, 13 and 21.

Independent claim 1 recites a shield layer over first and second elements and a kerf where a bond holds the shield layer free of cured liquid adhesive. Arakawa et al. do not disclose these limitations. A heat resistant ultrasonic flow detector is provided (Col. 1, lines 9-13). An electrode is formed from brazing material to bond the transducer to a plate and to function as a heat resisting electrode layer (Col. 3, lines 10-14). Rather than operating below 150°C, the flow detector may operate up to 600°C (Col. 1, lines 35-42 and Col. 3, lines 28-36). For flow detection, a single element is formed (see Figures 1-5). Only a pair of electrodes are used with a pair of wire leads (Col. 3, lines 1-7). Arakawa et al. desire extreme temperature operation with a single element flow detector. Arakawa et al. do not disclose two or more elements and do not disclose a kerf.

Independent claim 8, like claim 1, recites two elements and a kerf. Arakawa et al. do not disclose these limitations.

Independent claim 13 recites bonding a polymer of a shield layer to a stack with a heat seal bond. Arakawa et al. braze a metal compound to ceramic (Col. 3, lines 15-23). There is no suggestion to bond a polymer with a heat seal bond.

Independent claim 21 includes the limitations of claim 24. Since claim 24 was objected to as allowable if amended to include the limitations of the base claim 21, claim 21 as amended is allowable.

Dependent claims 2-4, 9-10, 14-15 and 22-23 depend from particular ones of the independent claims above, so are allowable for the same reasons of the respective independent claims. Further limitations distinguish from Arakawa et al. For example, claim 9 recites a polyester with an amorphous surface. Arakawa et al. use metal. As another example, claims 23 claims an amorphous polymer surface. Arakawa et al. use metal.

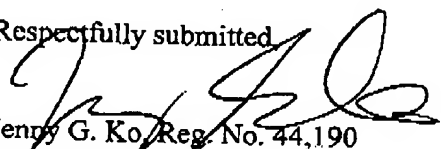
CONCLUSION:

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (650) 694-5810 or Craig Summerfield at (312) 321-4726.

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Respectfully submitted


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